

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /124 W
----- 068457

R 301245 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2162

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CASABLANCA 0349

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MO

SUBJECT: UNFP LEADER COMMENTS ON CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE

1. SUMMARY. ABDALLAH IBRAHIM BELIEVES SUSPENSION RIVAL RABAT FACTION UNFP DETERIMENTAL TO HIS CASABLANCA- BASED UNFP/ UMT. GOM ACTION HAS MADE RABAT GROUP INTO " MARTYRS" AND " REVOLUTIONARIES" WHILE GIVING IBRAHIM APPEARANCE OF POSING NO PROBLEM TO REGIME. IBRAHIM SAYS THAT LEADERSHIP RABAT FACTION NOT INVOLVED IN EVENTS MARCH 3. THERE IS CURRENTLY NO CONTACT BETWEEN REGIME AND UNFP, AND THE TIME FOR POLITICAL INITIATIVES IS NOT YET HERE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION APRIL 26 WITH LABOFF, UNFP PRESIDENT ABDALLAH IBRAHIM INDICATED HIS BELIEF THAT GOM' S SUSPENSION RABAT BRANCH OF PARTY BEGINNING TO WORK TO DETRIMENT IBRAHIM AND HIS UMT ALLIES. CONSENSUS AT BIMONTHLY MEETING OF UNFP LEADERSHIP HELD MID- APRIL WAS THAT GOM ACTION HAD TWO EFFECTS: FIRST, GOVERNMENT' S PUBLIC ASSOCIATION OF UNFP/ RABAT WITH ARMED ATTACKS OF MARCH 3 IN EFFECT IDENTIFIES RABAT GROUP AS THE " REAL REVOLUTIONARIES," WHILE RESULTING ARRESTS OF " MADMEN" SUCH AS OMAR BENJELLOUN
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CREATES FALSE MARTYRS IN EYES OF POLITICAL MASSES.
SECOND, BY ACTING AGAINST UNFP/ RABAT, GOM APPEARS TO BE
" MAKING A GIFT" TO CASABLANCA FACTION, THUS GIVING SOME
TO THINK THAT UNFP/ CASABLANCA SOMEHOW IN COLLUSION WITH
GOVERNMENT OR, WORSE, OF NO CONCERN TO IT.

3. IN ADDITION, IBRAHIM IS INCENSED OVER WHAT HE CONSIDERS
OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF UNFP/ RABAT AS SEPARATE ENTITY.
HE BELIEVES THAT WHILE SUSPENSION IS TEMPORARY (AT PRESENT
FOR FOUR MONTHS) SPLIT IN HIS PARTY HAS BEEN ILLEGALLY
FORMALIZED BY GOM ACTION, DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY AGAINST
" SCISIONNISTES." THIS LEGAL POINT WAS MADE IN COMMUNIQUE
IBRAHIM ISSUED APRIL 13 CONDEMNING GOM ACTION.

4. IBRAHIM STRESSED THAT LEADERSHIP UNFP/ RABAT WAS NOT
IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN MARCH 3 EVENTS. HE SAID THAT
THOSE WHO WERE " UNIMPORTANT MEMBERS" OF PARTY OR
NOT MEMBERS AT ALL.

5. IN REPLY TO A QUERY IBRAHIM SAID THAT ABSOLUTELY NO
DIALOGUE CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND
PARTIES. HE STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT UNFP HAS NOT
RECEIVED ANY APPROACHES ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN GOVERNMENT,
BUT ADDED THAT CERTAIN ISTIQLALIS MIGHT HAVE. HOWEVER,
ISTIQLAL WOULD NOT MAKE ANY MOVE WITHOUT UNFP, HE SAID.

6. SUMMING UP, IBRAHIM SAID THAT TIME HAS NOT YET COME
FOR MAJOR POLITICAL INITIATIVES BY UNFP. PARTY IS WEAK
AND POORLY ORGANIZED AND KING IS IN A REPRESSIVE MOOD.
FUTURE OF COUNTRY IS AS MURKY AS EVER.

7. COMMENT: IBRAHIM' S VIEW THAT SUSPENSION HIS UNFP/ RABAT
RIVALS IS LESS THAN TOTAL BLESSING SEEMS MORE PRAGMATIC
THAN EARLIER SATISFACTION EXPRESSED IN UMT CIRCLES.
UMT LEADERS BEN SEDDIK AND ABDERRAZAK DO NOT YET SEEM
TO FULLY SHARE IBRAHIM' S PESSIMISM.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CASABL00349
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: CASABLANCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730454/aaaaizmw.tel
Line Count: 100
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <01-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980205
Subject: UNFP LEADER COMMENTS ON CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE
TAGS: PINT, MO, PINT
To: AF
ALGIERS
PARIS
RABAT
SECSTATE WASHDC
TUNIS
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005